

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A washing machine having a top plate with an opening therein, comprising:

a tub for holding laundry, water and detergent;  
a detergent storing assembly located in the top plate opening for storing the detergent and providing the detergent to the tub on washing, the detergent storing assembly including a detergent box provided for storing the detergent, and a lid part fixed to a topside of the detergent box for opening/closing the detergent box;

a cabinet having the tub installed inside thereof wherein the detergent storing assembly is loaded on a loading hole formed at one side of the cabinet; and

a packing means sealing a gap between the lid part and the top plate to prevent external water from flowing in the cabinet,

wherein the lid part comprises an insertion groove to which the packing means is fitted and a plurality of inclined protrusions are formed on an inside of the insertion groove to have packing means slide to be inserted thereon.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lid part comprising further comprises:

a lid frame fixed to the detergent box and having an opening at a center to permit the detergent in the detergent box; and

a revolvable lid installed at one side of the lid frame to open/close the topside of the detergent box.

4. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 3, wherein a bottom of the lid frame is mounted on a periphery of the loading hole.

5. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the packing means is provided between the bottom of the lid frame and a rim of the loading hole.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in ~~claim 10~~ claim 1, wherein the insertion groove is formed at the bottom of the lid frame except a portion to which the lid is connected.

8. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the packing means comprises a gasket fitted to the insertion groove, a gasket partially protruding therefrom.

9. (Previously Presented) The washing machines as claimed in claim 8, wherein the

gasket comprises:

- a first gasket inserted in a front portion of the insertion groove of the lid frame; and
- a second gasket inserted in a rear portion of the insertion groove of the lid frame.

10-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A washing machine having a top plate with an opening therein, comprising:

- a tub for holding laundry, water and detergent;
- a detergent storing assembly located in the top plate opening for storing the detergent and providing the detergent to the tub on washing, the detergent storing assembly including a detergent box provided for storing the detergent, and a lid part fixed to a topside of the detergent box for opening/closing the detergent box;
- a cabinet having the tub installed inside thereof wherein the detergent box is positioned within a loading hole formed at one side of the cabinet and the lid part is mounted on a rim of the loading hole; and
- a packing means located on a bottom surface of the lid part and sealing a gap between the lid part and the top plate to prevent external water from flowing in the cabinet.